

Wenatchee Fire Department

Serving the Citizens of Wenatchee Since 1895





The Wenatchee Fire Department was organized by volunteers in 1895, at which time the City had a population of about 500 people.



Drawn by Mayor & City Council - 1896

In 1896 the City purchased a 40-gallon hand-drawn chemical soda and acid piece of equipment.



Hose & Chemical Wagon - 1908

In 1908, the City purchased a horse-drawn combination hose and chemical piece of apparatus.



Ladder Wagon - 1909

In 1909 a horse-drawn ladder wagon was purchased for \$3,000.



July 5, 1909

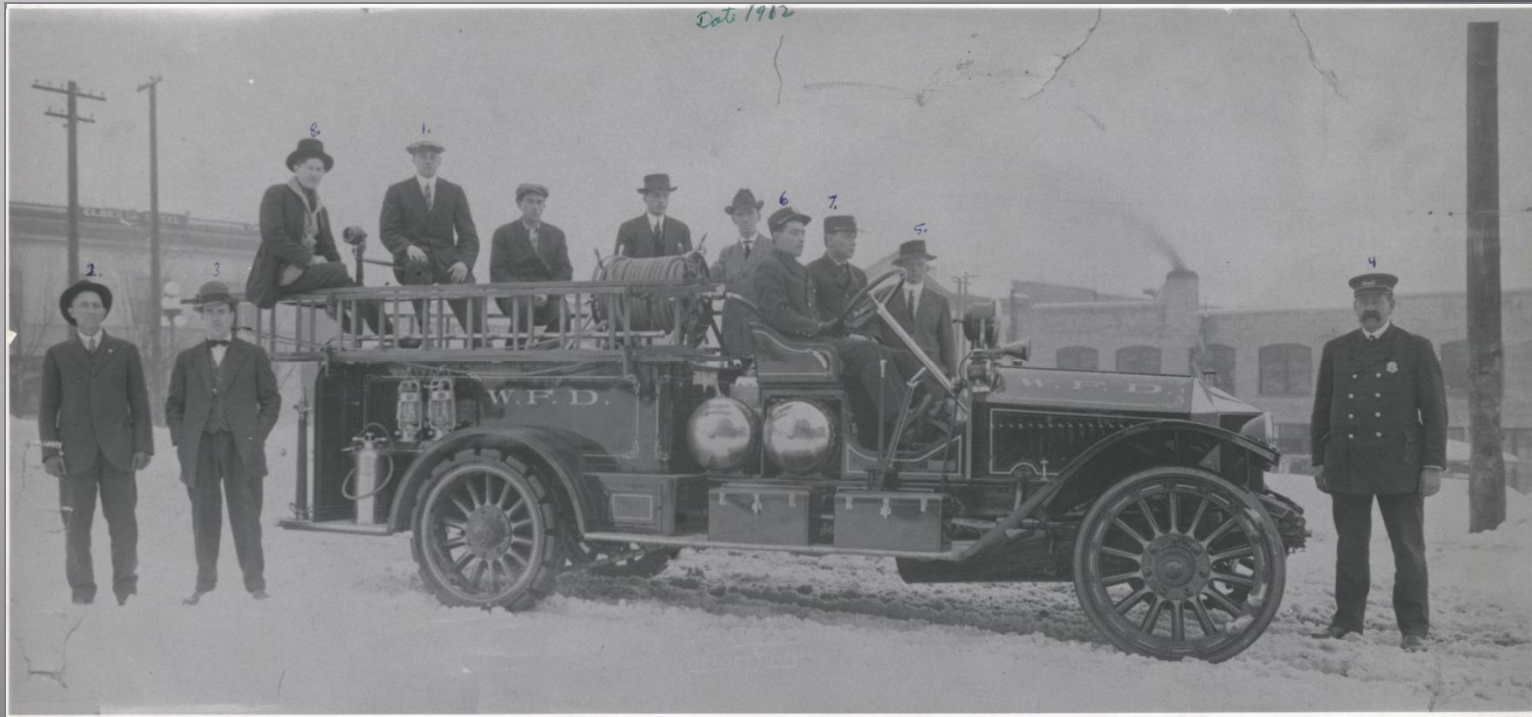
One of the worst recorded fires that swept through the town of Wenatchee was the fire of July 5, 1909. Several blocks of buildings were destroyed including the first home of the fire department which was beside the city jail on Columbia Street.





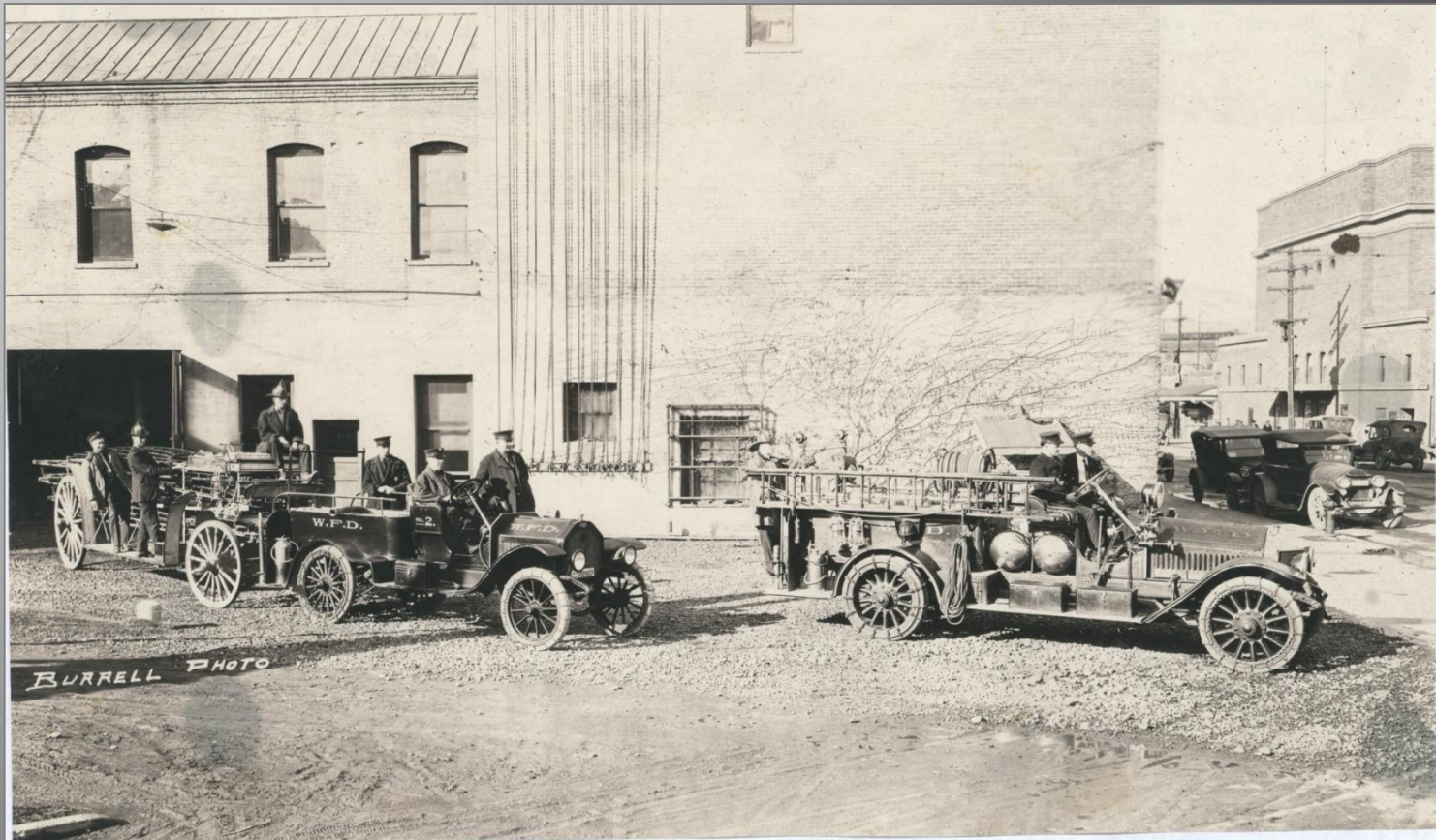
New Fire Station at 18 S. Mission - 1910

Immediately after the fire in 1910, the Chamber of Commerce constructed a new brick building at 18 S. Mission.



1912

Fire Chief Van Landingham and firefighters on the 1912 Boyd combination hose and chemical truck



1917

The fire department at the station with the Buick pulling the ladder wagon. Mike Horan donated the Buick to the City 1912.



American LeFrance 1,000 gallon Steam Pumper - 1924

In 1924 John W. Green was appointed Chief, at which time the City purchased a new 1,000-gallon American LaFrance pumper for \$14,300 and enlarged the paid force from three to five men.



Chevy Hose Wagon - 1926

In 1926 the department purchased a Chevy Hose Wagon which gave the Wenatchee Fire Department four pieces of equipment.



Fire Station at 126 S. Chelan – 1929

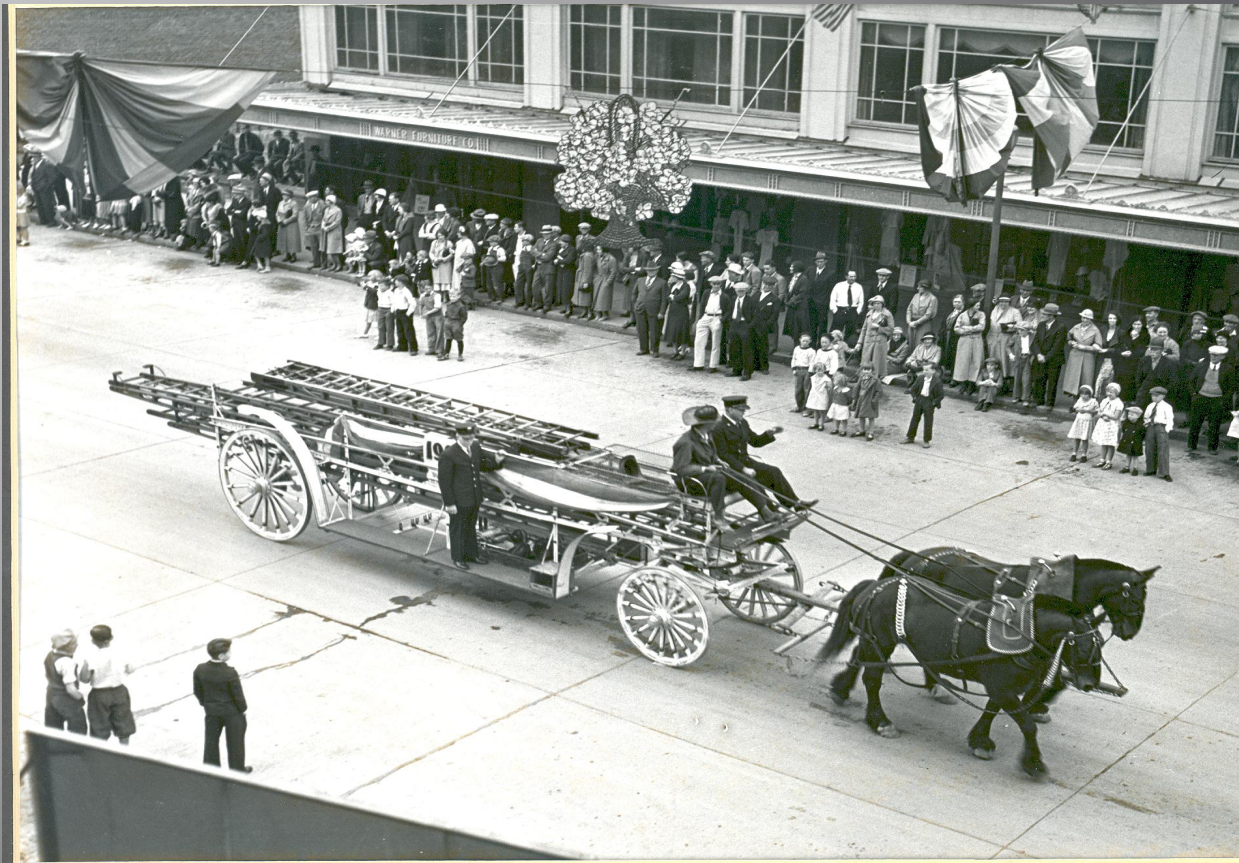
In 1929, H.W. Bryson succeeded Chief Jenkins as Fire Chief. The Fire Department occupied the new two-story building at the corner of Yakima and Chelan Avenues in November, 1929.



Firemen's Toyland - 1933

Fire Department personnel took an active role in the "Toys-For-Tots" program. At Christmas time, the toys were all repaired and distributed to needy children in the community. The program continued until the early 1960's.





Apple Blossom Parade - 1933

The 1909 ladder wagon in the Apple Blossom Parade



1939 Station

A new Seagraves 65' aerial ladder truck was delivered to the City in 1937. The Boyd hose truck and old horse-drawn ladder trailer were taken out of service.



In 1948 a new American LaFrance 750 gallon engine replaced the 1924 LaFrance and two-way radios were installed in the new LaFrance, the Seagraves ladder truck, and the Chief's car.





**Fire Chief TA Weaver
& Fire Marshal
Art Fletcher**



Fire Marshal Fletcher



Suggs Tire Fire - 1956





Elks Building Fire - 1958



**Wenatchee Lumber Fire
1959**





First Aid Truck - 1960

In 1960 the department added the first aid truck. There were 49 EMS calls in 1963 compared to 1,807 calls in 2009.



December 31, 1961

Two major fires occurred at 820 S. Wenatchee Avenue and at the corner of Orondo & Mission Streets less than one hour apart on a cold New Year's Eve. The fire hose froze and firefighters struggled with frozen fifty-foot sections of hose.





Expanded bay doors - 1961



J.C. Penney Fire - 1963





The north doors were expanded and the floor lowered to accommodate the 1968 Snorkel ladder truck.



Apple Yard Explosion - 1974

An explosion at the Apple Yard started fires on Wenatchee Heights and sent debris to East Wenatchee. There was one confirmed death in the yard, but the inhabitants of a transient camp never returned causing speculation they had also been killed.



Department Personnel - 1977



Ballard Fire - 1979

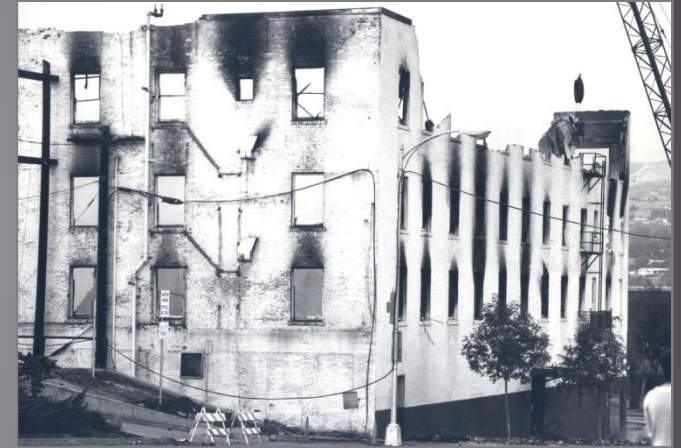
The Ballard fire in 1979 at 604 S. Wenatchee Avenue caused \$750,000 in damage. Exploding oxygen tanks blew firefighters out of the building across the rear alley.



In the early 1970's fire department personnel were trained as EMT's as medical calls and automobile accidents continued to increase. The department owned the only Hurst Tool, the Jaws of Life.

In the late 1980's the departments took on the responsibility of responding to the continuing increase in hazardous material emergencies.





Columbian Hotel Fire - 1988

The historic hotel stood on the corner of Yakima and Wenatchee Avenue where Centennial Park is today.



Department Personnel - 1992



**Castlerock Fire
October, 1992**



In the 1990's the department added response capabilities in rope and water rescue. The Wenatchee Fire Department made a name and identity change to Wenatchee Fire & Rescue.





**Columbia Lanes Fire
March, 1998**



In 2000 the department developed a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan to address all types of natural or technological emergencies and disasters within the city.





**Keyes Fiber Fire
January, 2005**



**Davis Furniture Fire
December, 2006**



Chief Harris and the Ladder Wagon
in the Apple Blossom Parade



Chief Glen Harris Funeral – April, 2007

The restored 1909 Ladder Wagon served as a fitting tribute to
accommodate the casket of Fire Chief Glen Harris.



Department Personnel - 2007



**Fontanelle Fire
January, 2009**



**Stemilt Warehouse Fire
June, 2009**

Wenatchee Fire & Rescue 2009 Annual Report



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